Dismal performance of FCIL

2346. SHRI RAMESHWER KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the physical and financial performance of Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) has been dismal during last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the physical and financial performance of ECIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Electronics Corporation of Inida Ltd, (ECIL) a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, has done pioneering work in several areas of professional electronics, stating with small passive components and going out to large and complex computer systems. Thought the company recorded profits throughout the Eighth Plan period (1992—97), its growth slowed down from the year 1995-96. Marginal profits were achieved in the period 1995—97 and comparatively larger losses were recorded during 1997—99.

(b) (i) ECIL, set up to develop indigenous skills and establish production base for high technology professional electronics, is dependent on the availability of competent and qualified manpower. Of late , the company has faced constraints in retaining and attracting high quality man-power.

(ii) ECIL's product portfolio, built over the past three decades, has been catering mainly to the needs of the nuclear power, defence and telecommunications sectors, Uneven growth in the volumes of business for ECIL in these sectors is the main reasons for the recent decline in ECIL's performance. Increased competition in the business areas other than the nuclear power sector has also been a contributory factor.

(c) The company has been reviewing its business and product lines with a view to focussing them into three distinct segments-nuclear, defence and commercial. A re-structuring proposal, covering important aspects of business, financial and manpower rationalisation, has been prepared by the company and submitted for consideration of the Government.

Launching of Pressurised Water Reactors at Kudankulam

2347. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite its inability in successfully implementing the Nuclear Power Profile due to resource crunch, DAE has embarked on another programme to launch two Pressurised Water Reactors of 1000 MWe each at Kudankulam; and

(b) if so, what are Government's views in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Nuclear Power Profile had to be scaled down keeping in view the resource constraints in financing the programme during the 8th Five Year Plan. However, the Government of India has been pursuing its Nuclear Power Programme with a view to developing and utilising nuclear power as an inevitable option in the long term perspective. The proposed 2×1000 MWe VVER type Kudankulam Atomic Power Project is a part of the above programme.

Generation of Additional Nuclear Power

2348. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that against a nuclear power profile with projection of achieving additional capacity of 7880 MW of nuclear power by 2000 AD, Government have not been able to generate any